

This is the 2nd anniversary edition of the Planning Department Newsletter. We hope you are finding this little publication useful in keeping tabs on what we're doing, and we encourage you to offer suggestions for making it more effective. For example, maybe we could add a column to publish answers to your questions, or a place for "editorial" letters from our readers – let us know what you think.

UPdates



The City Council voted on March 14 to approve amendments to the City's **outdoor lighting standards**. The Planning Commission had recommended approval of these staff-initiated amendments on February 16. These amendments (at lincoln.ne.gov; keyword = pcagenda; see February 16, 2005 agenda) were developed at the request of the Near South Neighborhood Association, which was seeking to protect residential properties from glare and light trespass from commercial lighting. In reviewing the current standards, Planning staff has concluded that there is a real need for a more comprehensive review, with the assistance of qualified experts and a strong dose of public involvement. We hope to initiate that review within the next three or four months.

The City Council and County Board adopted the **Airport West Subarea Plan** as recommended by the Planning Commission and staff, with language modifying the suggested alignment for a future NW 38th/40th Street. You can find the adopted plan at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword = airwest).

The City Council adopted the proposed **amendments to the Subdivision Regulations** as recommended by Planning Commission and staff, with minor clarifying language changes. You can find the adopted amendments at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword = streamline).

AND ... UPCOMING dates



Over the past several months, Planning staff has met with dozens of groups interested in the role downtown will play in Lincoln's tomorrow. Neighborhood organizations, business groups, institutional participants and community boards have all been a part of this three-month discussion. This community dialogue has focused on the planning approaches emerging from the three workshops held last calendar year. These workshops generated many suggestions on ways to keep downtown Lincoln as a vibrant office, retailing, residential, educational, governmental, cultural and entertainment district.

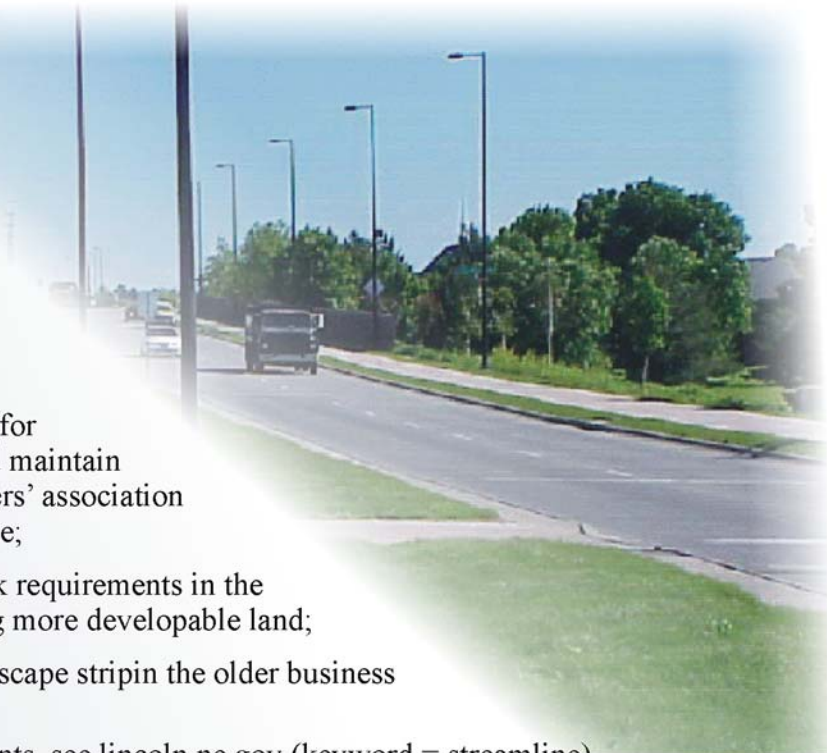
The Downtown Action Team (DAT), the 22-member citizen group overseeing the study, met with the study's consultant team and local staff March 3. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the results of this community outreach effort and other master plan activities. After several hours of discussion, the DAT decided to cancel the April 5 community workshop to allow time for further exploration of various issues. The DAT is expected to meet again in early May to refine the draft plan's project concepts and to work on implementation and financing. A final community workshop will likely be scheduled for late spring. In addition to specific projects, the agenda for the workshop is expected to include implementation strategies, project phasing, financial options, and design concepts.

Following the workshop, City and DLA staff – along with assistance from the downtown consultant team – will continue working with the DAT to craft a final planning document. Additional community review will be sought as the plan advances through the Planning Commission and City Council adoption process later in the year.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing March 30 to consider amendments to the zoning ordinance and design standards proposed by staff regarding “[streetscapes](#)”. The proposed amendments are intended to improve the visual appearance of new development along the City's freeways, expressways and arterial streets. The proposed changes include:

- ▶ Increasing the screening density of parking lots from street view;
- ▶ Increasing the tree canopy requirements within parking lots;
- ▶ Requiring screening of any outdoor loading and storage;
- ▶ Requiring that some landscaping accompany fencing used as a screening material along streets;
- ▶ Requiring that openings be provided in fences for lot owners to be able to more easily access and maintain the public right of way, unless a property owners' association has been made responsible for that maintenance;
- ▶ Reducing the current 50 foot front yard setback requirements in the newer zoning districts to 20 to 30 feet, creating more developable land;
- ▶ Requiring a minimum six-foot front yard landscape strip in the older business and industrial districts.

For more information on these proposed amendments, see lincoln.ne.gov (keyword = streamline).



The City Council is scheduled to hold a public hearing on the evening of March 28 to consider adopting the [Stevens Creek Watershed Master Plan](#) as an element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission recommended adoption at its March 2 meeting. The proposed master plan includes new standards to improve water quality from urban runoff, as well as an updated delineation of the 100-year floodplain. The proposed master plan can be found at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword = watershed; see “Stevens Creek Watershed Study” under “What’s New”).



The Planning Commission will hold a special hearing on the [Comprehensive Plan](#) proposed amendments and the proposed City of Lincoln [Capital Improvement Program](#) on Wednesday, May 18 at in the Council Hearing Room of the County/City Building, 555 South 10th Street.

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

2005 ANNUAL REVIEW

PUBLIC HEARING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 - 1:00 P.M.
COUNCIL HEARING ROOM, COUNTY/CITY BUILDING

- #05003 Trails Network Plan.** Relocate the Dead Man’s Run trail from N. 33rd to N. 48th to the south side of Leighton, rather than through UNL East Campus and update map to reflect newly built trails.
- #05004 County Future Road Improvements.** Designate S. 82nd Street from Hickman Road to Panama Road as “Potential Paving” and update road map.
- #05005 Fletcher Ave., 14th to 27th.** Change Fletcher Avenue from 4+1 lanes to 2+1 lanes and functional classification from Minor Arterial to Urban Collector.
- #05006 1st to 14th Road Changes.** Changes regarding functional classification and right-of-way for 7th Street, Humphrey, Pennsylvania and Fletcher Ave. between N. 1st and 14th and change from Priority B to A.
- #05007 NW 70th and West Superior.** Change from Priority B to A.
- #05008 Southwest Area.** Change from Priority B to A and designate a site specific Community Commercial Center at the future intersection of West Old Cheney Road and South Coddington Avenue.
- #05009 N. 56th & I-80 Industrial.** Change from Agricultural to Industrial and Commercial, inclusion in 2025 Future Service Limit and change from Tier II to Tier I, Priority A on northwest corner of interchange.
- #05010 S. 40th and Rokeby.** Designate a site specific Community Commercial Center.
- #05011 N. 84th and Havelock.** Change from Public and Semi-Public to Commercial on southeast corner.

For more information, please visit our web page at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword = cpamend) or call Steve Henrichsen at 441-7491.



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